THE

Happy Meeting of the Maid of the Mill and 'Squire Richland

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THE

MAID of the MILL;

OR, THE

COTTAGE BEAUTY:

Being the real and Entertaining History of

'SQUIRE RICHLAND,

AND

LUCY ARNOLD,

The MILLER's Daughter of the County of HERTFORDSHIRE.

CONTAINING

I. An account of the Maid of the Mill.
II. Her various sweethearts, and the manner they take to gain her affection.
III. 'Squire Richland falls in love with her and what follows.
IV. The way she takes to get rid of her former lovers, Letters between her and the 'squire.
V. Account of Miss Richland and her affairs in love; more letters between the maid of the Mill and 'Squire Richland; he comes to her father's, promises marriage.
VI. She visits Miss Richland, preparation for the wedding; Miss Richland's lover appears.
VII. Another wedding to take place; Richland, and the Maid of the Mill with Miss Richland and her lover married at the same time, with many other particulars,

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Harry Meetho of the Maid of the Mill and 'Squire Richland

MAID of the MILL.

THE

COUTLAW of BRADLY:

OR,

ROGER DICELAND

AND

LUCY ARNOLD.

THE

MAID of the MILL.

IN the County of Hertford lived a jolly honeſt Miller, which ſome folks may wonder at, becauſe they think that all Millers will take toll. This man whoſe name was Arnold, had a daughter of ſuch matchleſs beauty, that her equal could not be ſeen, even at court at a birth day ball.

Her name was Lucy, but ſhe was more commonly called "the Maid of the Mill." She was witty and ſprightly, but very virtuous and modeſt, ſo that tho' ſhe never ſuffered any of her ſuitors to take liberties with her, ſhe was merry with them all. She often diverted herſelf with Simon, her father's man, who was ſtruck more blind by her charms, than he was by the duſt of his mill.

But Thomas, a gentleman's butler, juſt by, was his rival, he was a very ſmart fellow, and being out of livery, dreſs'd genteel in his maſter's left off cloaths, and appeared more like a beau than Simon, tho' he wore powder'd cloaths.

But now another lover made his court to Lucy; this was one Sawney Angus, who had formerly been a Scotch pedlar, but had ſaved ſome money, and intended to marry and ſettle in ſome other buſineſs; he was a brave bonny lad, and offered to box with any one who made pretenſions to Lucy, for the prize of her heart.

David, a farmer's man, who had for ſome time been ſmitten with Lucy's charms, accepted the challenge, he was a little ſhort thick Welchman, as round as a bowl.

To it they went and boxed one another, till they was tired, and their bones was ſore, but neither of them could conquer. Being weary of this ſport they left off, and ſhaking hands agreed for both of them to do their utmoſt to win her favor, and to abide by her choice.

Sawney Angus waited upon Lucy, and told her what a muckle love he had for her, and how her bright eyes had ſtole his heart away; and more to the ſame purpoſe, which made Lucy laugh heartily, and David coming in, it added to her pleaſantry, to hear him ſplutter out his paſſion; however, at laſt to get rid of them, ſhe ſaid ſhe would give the preference to him who could ſing the beſt ſong.

Upon which they both began to ſet up their pipes, but made ſuch a diſcord inſtead of harmony,

mony, that Lucy was fit to kill herſelf with laughing; ſhe told them their ſounds were ſo moving, that ſhe could not ſtay to hear any more, but deſired them to come another day, and in the mean time, each of them to learn a good ſong, and adviſed them to ſuck an egg every morning to clear their voice.

The farmer where David lived had two daughters, their names was Rachel and Martha Wheatly. Now Rachel had been ſmitten with the ruddy round faced little Welchman, and envied Lucy for being ſo beautiful, as ſhe had drawn the affections of David from her. Martha was in love with Dick; John Arnold, the miller's ſon, who was likewiſe very fond of her, and to pleaſe her, often plagued his ſiſter Lucy, to give up her ſuitor David, to Rachel, and to marry one of her other ſweethearts.

But Lucy had not the leaſt intention to have any of them; ſhe gave the preference rather to Thomas the gentleman's butler, becauſe he had more good manners and gentility than the clowns, for ſhe was brought up in a very delicate manner herſelf, as her father was worth a good deal of money; her mother kept ſervants to do the buſineſs of the houſe, and Lucy was waited upon like a lady; ſhe did nothing but work at her needle and read, which made her brother Dick very ſulky ſometimes, and tell his mother you dreſs ſiſter Lucy up like a doll, why don't you ſet her upon the cupboard head.

Thomas

Thomas therefore having the advantage of the reſt, frequently had the honour of being her partner in country dances; and one evening as above a dozen young couples were exerciſing themſelves in that agreeable manner, they were rather put out, by ſeeing a very handſome young gentleman richly dreſs'd, making obſervations on them.

This was 'ſquire Richland, one of the greateſt gentlemen, and of the moſt eſtate in thoſe parts. He ſtood ſome time looking on, and was perfectly amazed at the beauty of Lucy; the God of love, who was hovering over her, immediately ſent from her eyes a pointed dart, which pierced the heart of the young 'ſquire.

After ſome time contemplating her lovely face, her eaſy ſhape, her graceful mien, he ſtepped forward, and in the moſt courtly manner begg'd ſhe would favour him in dancing a minuet with him, Lucy with a curtſey, and a moſt engaging ſmile of aſſent, complied with his deſire.

There needed no more to compleat the conqueſt, he earneſtly enquired her name, and where ſhe lived, for he had been abroad ſome years, and was but juſt returned home. Lucy anſwered with truth and modeſty, and on his deſiring to attend her to her father's houſe, told him her father was a plain man, and ſhe was afraid he would not receive the honour done him with propriety, however ſhe accepted his hand, and he led her home.

The

The green meadow where they had danced was about half a mile from her house, and the rest of the company had the good manners to stay behind, so the 'squire had an opportunity of telling her of the violent love she had impress'd him with; Lucy answer'd him with sense and modesty, but took care to conceal those soft emotions she felt for him. She therefore turn'd what he said into common place talk, which every gay gentleman, she said made use on in company with young silly girls, which was not right in them, for many maidens had been deceived by such artful discourse, which had been only meant to pass the time away, and they had thought it real.

When they came to the mill, the miller was looking out of the window, and came down to see who his daughter had brought home.

He recollected the 'squire, though he had not seen him for seven or eight years, and paid his compliments to him as well as he could. He ordered the table to be spread, and to set out the best the house afforded, with some strong home-brew'd ale, then press'd the 'squire to sit down and eat and drink heartily, but he desired his wife and Lucy to retire into another room, that himself and his honour might be more at liberty to regale, without being interrupted by women.

'Squire Richland was much pleas'd at the hearty reception the old miller gave him, but as he had

sent

ſent away the only diſh he could then reliſh, (his daughter) he declin'd ſtaying to ſupper, as he ſaid, he had an engagement at home.

As ſoon he was gone, old Arnold call'd his daughter to take her to taſk, for he would not before the 'ſquire; he asked her how ſhe came in his company, and what ſhe let him come home with her for. She told him the truth, but the careful old man ſaid, Lucy, take care of yourſelf child—I am afraid the 'ſquire has ſome deſign, you can't believe he can ſtoop to marry a miller's daughter! you had better be contented with Thomas, or any lad of your own degree; the 'ſquire will have ſome fine lady! Well, and for the matter of that cries Dick, (who was preſent) ſiſter Luce is a fine lady I think; hold your tongue Richard, ſaid his father, ſhe was not born a lady; more fool, replied Dick, is ſomebody to make her appear more than ſhe is.

Perhaps I may ſee my child with too partial eyes, ſaid Mrs. Arnold, but I think her, both in perſon, and mind, worthy of the beſt lord in the land; and I don't think there is any danger in dreſſing her up, and putting her in fortunes way, for her own prudence and virtue will carry her through all temptations, and if ſhe can by her merit raiſe herſelf, it will be an honour to her family.

Lucy deſired to drop the ſubject if they pleaſed, for

ſhe dar'd ſay, that ſhe ſhould hear no more of the 'ſquire, as ſhe look'd upon it to be nothing more than a piece of gallantry, but that ſhe did not care to affront ſuch a gentleman.

But here ſhe play'd the little hypocrite, for ſhe did really think in her mind ſhe ſhould hear further from him, and would have been very uneaſy if ſhe had not.

As ſoon as ſhe retired to bed, but not to reſt, ſhe ran over in her thoughts all the fine things he had ſaid to her, and found on reflection that ſhe was more pleas'd than ſhe ought to be with him, for the firſt time of ſeeing him; however, ſhe checked herſelf and reſolved, that neither he or any one elſe ſhould diſcover the ſecrets of her heart, and endeavoured all ſhe could to hide them from herſelf, as her feelings ſuggeſted to her, ſhe ſhould be miſerable without the man that occaſioned them! But how weak are our reſolves, when all powerful love has taken poſſeſſion of our ſouls.

In vain did Lucy ſtrive to drive him from her breaſt, his image was for ever before her, and the ſoft words he ſpoke, and the tender preſſure of her hand, ſhe could not drive from her memory; ſhe could no longer bear the thoughts of Thomas for a ſweetheart; and as to the reſt of the clowns, ſhe ſicken'd at the ſight of them; to add to her vexation, Sawney Angus and little David appear'd before her with each a new ſong.

Lucy did not receive them with a pleaſant countenance, as ſhe us'd to do when they diverted her with their fooliſh love, and ſhe was aſham'd ſhe had ever given encouragement to them for her diverſion, However, as ſhe had given them orders, ſhe was obliged to hear their ſongs, Sawney Angus began in this manner.

I.

THE braweſt laſs in aw the land
Which does my fancy fill;
Whoſe charms no reaſon can withſtand,
Is Lucy of the Mill.

II.

Was I as rich as any laird;
Or could my coffers fill,
I'd give my all for her regard,
The laſſie of the Mill.

III.

In ſilken gear with top-knots gay,
I'd have her dreſſed ſtill,
And every one ſhould homage pay
To Lucy of the Mill.

IV.

At kirk, and market ſhe ſhould ſhine,
In aw things have her will,
Would ſhe but ſay I will be thine,
The laſſie of the Mill.

V.

The hours and days would jocund paſs,
My breaſt with rapture thrill,
If ever I ſhould have the laſs,
Sweet Lucy of the Mill.

In

In ſpite of all the ſerioufneſs ſhe had in her countenance, ſhe could not refrain from burſting out a laughing, and at the ſame time to diſcourage him, cried out Oh, execrable! Sawney Angus hung down his head and ſneaked off finding ſhe would not fall to his ſhare; then David the Welchman began.

ODD ſplutter o'nails
Since hur come from north Wales,
Hur never did ſee ſuch a lady;
So neat and ſo fine,
No queen's ſo divine,
That ever hur ſaw on a May-day.

Hur cheeks what a bloom,
Then hur preath is perfume,
And hur foice more than Nightingale ſweet is;
For air and for crace,
All to hur muſt give place,
For ſure in all things hur complext is.

Then for ſenſe and for wit,
She each humour can hit,
She is ſo good humour'd and clever;
That go where hur will,
The Laſs of the Mill,
Can never be equall'd no never.

Lucy could no more keep her countenance, than ſhe did at the other, for he made ſo many wry faces, and gurgled in his throat. as if a piece of toaſted cheeſe ſtuck there. So ſhe told him his ſong was as bad as the other's, ſhe did not know which was beſt, therefore would have nothing more to ſay to them; little David took his leave ſhaking his round pole.

'Squire Richland paſs'd ſeveral uneaſy days after ſeeing Lucy, without being able to come to a determination how he ſhould act; he loved her too well to ſeek her ruin; neither could he bring himſelf at firſt to think of marrying her, his pride of birth was much againſt the pleaſing inclinations; to be ſure he was entirely at his own liberty, having no one to pleaſe but his ſiſter, who was a ſingle lady about thirty; ſhe was courted when ſhe was but ſixteen, and near being married to a young ſtudent from the univerſity, but before the time fixed for their nuptials came, he went back to Oxford to ſettle ſome particular buſineſs, and had never returned ſince.

Miſs Richland, much in love, and greatly diſappointed, never encouraged any more offers, tho' ſhe might have had ſeveral, for ſhe was a very fine woman.

She had prevented her brother from entering into the married ſtate ſeveral times, not that he was ever in love before he ſaw the Maid of the Mill; but he thought it was neceſſary for him to have an heir to inherit his eſtate. After a good deal of ſerious conſideration, he wrote the following letter to Lucy.

My deareſt Lucy

You will forgive me when I freely confeſs to you, I have ſtruggled to conquer the paſſion you have inſpired me with, for my dear girl, I muſt own my pride of birth would not at firſt let me ſtoop to an alliance with a miller's daughter; but my endeavours are all vain and fruitleſs, for my ideas of your charms, when I firſt beheld you dancing on the green near a chryſtal ſtream of water, were that you was ſomething more than mortal; and

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had you been alone, I ſhould have imagin'd you to have been Venus juſt ſprung from the flood; how is it then poſſible I can forget you, when ſuch were the thoughts your beauty inſpired; no my lovely maid, I never can forget you, or ceaſe to love you! What then am I to do? am I becauſe you are beneath me in birth, to endeavour to ſeduce you? I ſcorn ſuch an action! no, I muſt ſtill love on, and tho' I can never be happy without you, will delay my happineſs, ti'l I can bri g my pride to conſent to my love! and remain till that time my deareſt girl your affectionate friend,

R. RICHLAND.

I ſhould eſteem it a favour if you would ſend me your thoughts on this important ſubject.

Lucy read this letter ſeveral times over, and could not help ſhedding tears at the diſparity of their births, which prevented them both from beinn happy. However, as an anſwer was required, ſhe compoſed herſelf as well as ſhe could in order to write, but was a long time before ſhe could bring herſelf to write as ſhe did, which was as follows.

Honour'd Sir,

I am ſurprized at receiving a letter from you on ſuch a ſubject, and am ſorry you have given yourſelf ſo much trouble for ſuch an unworthy object; but as you deſire me to give my opinion what you ſhould do, I would adviſe you, if you have honour'd me ſo much as to think of me, to think of me no more! I confeſs my unworthineſs in regard to my birth, to be united to your worthy family. Happy would it have been for me, if I had ſprung from one as noble as yours. tho' I bluſh while I write it. I will own it, as you have been ſo in-

genuous

genuous with me; and I cannot esteem you enough sir, for one part of your letter, which shows you not capable of not seducing an innocent maid. I wish you sir, if I know my own heart, happy with a lady equal to you in birth, and beg that you will no more bestow a thought on the unhappy

LUCY ARNOLD.

'Squire Richland waited impatiently for an answer, and when it was brought him, eagerly open'd and read it, and was charm'd with the confession she had made of her regard for him; he found the nobleness of her soul was as great as his own; he found his passion encrease, and his pride of birth was let a good many pegs lower.

Lucy heard no more from the 'squire at present, and began to repent she had desired him to think of her no more, for she found she should never be able to love any other man.

She had quite got rid of Sawney Angus the Scotchman, for being disappointed in having her, he had taken up his pedlar's pack, and was let out on his travels, intending never to return to that place again.

And little David began to look upon Rachel, who was more fit for him, and in time he found she was a pretty smirking lass, tho' he had not observed it before.

But Lucy found some difficulty in disengaging herself from Thomas, the butler, as she had partly encouraged him, by taking him for a partner so often, so that not only his master and lady, but all the town believed the Maid of the Mill would be his wife; and if she had not met with the 'squire, it would have been a very good match,

for

for he was a handſome young man, well reſpected in his place, and had ſaved ſome hundreds of pounds, and as Lucy would have had two or three hundred more they might have done very well, but ſhe had no ſooner ſeen the 'ſquire, than farewell Thomas.

She now refuſed to ſee him whenever he came to her father's houſe, and after many fruitleſs endeavour's to ſpeak to her, he complain'd to the miller of the coldneſs in his daughter's behaviour, which he ſaid he could not account for, as he had never done any thing to offend her. Mr. Arnold, who liked him very well for a ſon-in-law, told him he would ſpeak to Lucy about it, which he did, deſiring to know what made her behave ſo to her ſweetheart? Dear father, replied Lucy, he is not my ſweetheart, nor never was, to be ſure he was the fitteſt to be my partner in any of our rural amuſements, for there was none but clowns beſides him, but I never gave any encouragement to his love, or any one elſe, for I don't intend ever to marry.

The next time Thomas came, the miller told him what his daughter ſaid, which diſcouraged him from going any more, and ſoon after by accident he became acquainted with Sally Adams, a young woman that lived ſervant with Miſs Richland.

Lucy had none to teize her now but Simon, her father's man; ſhe uſed formerly to be much pleas'd at hearing him talk to her, as he was a merry, witty fellow. Dick was highly pleas'd when he hear'd him make love to his ſiſter, he had ſo many comical ſayings; and ſhe, as ſhe only made her paſtime of him, never reſented what he ſaid, for

he

he always behaved with decency, which made the foolish lad think some time or other he should marry his young mistress. He had been a little jealous about Sawney and David, and heard that Lucy had said, she should like him best that sung the best song, and was quite delighted when he heard she had discarded them both. It came into his head to make a song himself, which he did as follows.

Tho' I'm but a clown yet of Lucy I'll sing;
A maid that's as cheerful as birds in the spring;
As sweet as a rose-bud, as fair as the may,
And her person superior to all I can say.

At night in bed, or at work in the mill.
For ever her image my fancy does fill;
When e'er she is by I'm as blyth as a grig,
But when she is absent I'm dull as a pig.

If she smiles when I tell her how much I'm in love,
I think myself surely more happy than Jove;
When I've displeas'd her and caus'd her to frown,
The weight of a feather might knock Simon down.

Ah! would she to have me but once be inclin'd.
To maintain her how hard in the mill I would grind,
I'd sing to the clapper so joyfull and free,
No man in the world is so happy as me.

Lucy could not help smiling at hearing this, and told Simon he had performed better than either of the others, but desired from that time he would never have the presumption to mention any thing about love to her, as she had only made a jest of him, but now she was more serious and would not suffer it. Simon made a long scrape with his foot and withdrew, scratching his ears.

Lucy now receives another letter from the 'ſquire to this purpoſe.

Dear Lucy,

I am aſham'd of my folly, at being jealous of ſuch a menial as Thomas, but I have heard it reported that you encouraged his addreſſes, and your father had conſented for you to be married. I do not wonder now at your deſiring me to think of you no more, but you might have been more ſincere, and own'd your pre engagement. I had almoſt conquer'd my pride, and was going to make you an honourable propoſal, but I will not diſturb your happineſs, but make myſelf as eaſy as I can in thinking you are ſo; yet I could wiſh it might not be very ſoon, as I intend to ſettle my affairs and go abroad again; for tho' I wiſh you well, I can't bear to ſee you another man's wife! farewell my deareſt girl, and believe me your ſincere friend,

R. RICHLAND.

Lucy was much ſurprized at reading this, and as much pleas'd, for ſhe could perceive by his jealouſy, that his love remain'd for her as ſtrong as ever; but on reading it again, ſhe found ſhe had more cauſe for vexation, for the report he had heard, had prevented him from proſecuting his his honourable intentions, which doubtleſs was to marry her himſelf; therefore, ſhe delay'd no time, but anſwer'd his letter in theſe words.

Honour'd Sir,

I think it my duty to inform you what you have heard is entirely groundleſs; I do aſſure you ſir, I never ſaw the man yet, (except one whom I dare not name) that I could wiſh to marry, and you will forgive my vanity if I flatter myſelf, that both my perſon and education is ſuperior to a gen-

tleman's ſervant; or any of the clowns in this place; and if I cannot better my fortune, and at the ſame time have a man I can love, I promiſe your honour, I will not marry at all; I return you thanks for your good wiſhes, and remain your much oblig'd, LUCY ARNOLD.

'Squire Richland's heart throb'd with joy when he read this epiſtle from Lucy, he found ſhe was entirely diſengaged in her affections, to any but himſelf, for it required no explanation to convince him ſhe lov'd him; he concluded therefore in his mind, to make an offer of his hand to her; but firſt he thought to acquaint his ſiter with his intentions, and have her advice.

Miſs Richland had given herſelf up to melancholy and retirement, ever ſince her diſappointment in love; but tho' ſhe would not permit the addreſſes of a lover herſelf, ſhe was always glad to hear of young people's being married, and would have adviſed her brother to it before, but ſhe never had an opinion of any lady he had mention'd to her, for ſhe wiſh'd him to be happy when he enter'd that ſtate, tho' ſhe could not be ſo herſelf; ſhe had juſt entered her thirtieth year, but did not appear near ſo old, being very handſome and quite agreeable in her temper.

The day 'Squire Richland received the letter from Lucy, after dinner, when Miſs Richland was going to retire to her books, her brother deſired her to ſtay a few minutes, as he had ſomething to communicate to her, which nearly concern'd his future welfare.

That alone was ſufficient to detain her, ſhe ſat down again, and he proceeded to inform her of

his affections for the Maid of the Mill, ſhewed her the letters which had paſſed between them, and told her that nothing but his pride of birth could make him hesitate one moment from making her his wife.

The lady attended to him with a ſmile, and when he had done ſpeaking, ſaid brother, I find you are too far gone, to mind any advice that may be given you contrary to your inclinations, therefore I ſhall not attempt it; but if this Maid of the Mill is really what you ſay, and you cannot be happy without her, have her at once.

The 'ſquire was highly pleas'd with his ſiſter's concurrence, and immediately ſent the following billet to Lucy.

My charming Lucy,

You kindly ſaid in your laſt, you had not a wiſh to be married to any man, but one, may I not believe that one to be myſelf; I do, and will wait on you this evening to convince both you and your parents of my honourable intentions, till then adieu. RICHLAND.

The overjoy'd Lucy flew to her father, and mother, and ſhew'd them this letter and the others, begging pardon for concealing ſuch an affair, but as ſhe did not think it would ever be of much conſequence, ſhe did not care to have it talk'd of.

The old miller could hardly believe but he was in a dream, and his wife cried out; you ſee my dear, we did not dreſs up Lucy in vain. The 'ſquire came ſoon after, and before them all, taking Lucy by the hand, and ſaluting her, declared he would make her his wife.

The miller and his wife were full of acknowledgements, and would have fallen on their knees before him, but he prevented them; saying, that his pleasure would be as great as their honor, he desired them to let Lucy come next day to his house, that his sister might see her, this they promised and the 'squire took his leave.

Lucy arose early in the morning in order to dress herself and wait on Miss Richland; she set out, and coming to the gate soon gain'd admittance; the 'squire and his sister were sitting together in the parlour, when Lucy sending in her name, he went to receive her, and conducted her to Miss Richland.

That lady was astonished at her beauty, and declared she had never seen any thing so lovely; she seated her by her side, and asked her many questions on purpose to know if her sense was equal to her charms.

Lucy answered in such a prudent manner, that the lady declared to her brother, that she never met with so much excellence in any lady she had ever conversed with.

The 'squire highly delighted, embraced her with great transport, and Miss Richland being desirous of keeping Lucy with her for a companion, her brother sent a message to her father and mother, that they might not be uneasy at her not coming home; and Lucy continued with Miss Richland, till preparations were made for celebrating her nuptials with the 'squire, that lady taking upon her to see every thing conducted in a proper manner.

The day was fixed, and every thing in great forwardneſs; when one afternoon, Miſs Richland was called down to a gentleman who aſk'd for her in the parlour. She had hardly time to enter the room, before the ſtranger caught her in his arms, and embracing her, ſaid, I am returned again, in truth and honor to my dear Amelia.

Her ears were well acquainted with the ſound of his well known voice; it was no other than Sir William B——, the gentleman who had courted and left her ſo many years ago.

She ſunk in his arms with ſurprize and joy, and fainted; he rang a bell in the room for aſſiſtance, and 'ſquire Richland and Lucy hearing it went immediately to her, and was greatly ſurpriz'd to ſee her fainting in the gentleman's arms; but he ſoon made himſelf known to the 'ſquire, who was happy to ſee him again on his ſiſter's account, who now came to herſelf, when Sir William informed them of the reaſons of his abſence.

When he left her he ſaid and return'd to Oxford, he found a letter from his father in London, in which he deſired him to come to him, as he wanted to ſee him on an affair of great concernment; that he was unwilling to go without letting her know. but thinking ſhe would excuſe him he went; when he met his father, he inform'd him that he had an orphan young lady put into his hands to be her ward; that ſhe was beautiful and had forty thouſand pounds fortune, therefore he inſiſted on his making his addreſſes and marrying her as ſoon as poſſible; that he was in great perplexity, but at laſt told his father that he was under engagements to a young lady, he could not leave with honor; at which he grew enraged, and

and ordered him to comply, or he ſhould repent his diſobedience, but on perſiſting to refuſe the young lady, his father declar'd he had altered his mind, and would not let him have one or the other. Accordingly, the next day he had him convey'd on board a ſhip, which was going to the Eaſt Indies, and he was obliged to go without having an opportunity of ſending her notice; that he had ſince been thro' Europe, Aſia, Africa, and America, and had not been returned to England above a month, when he found his father dead, and took poſſeſſion of the title and eſtate; and he came to her to fulfill his engagement, if he ſhould be ſo happy as to find her ſingle.

Miſs Richland aſſured him ſhe was, and was ready to give him her hand. 'Squire Richland was pleas'd at their meeting, and embracing Sir William. told him he had behaved like a gentleman; and added, his ſiſter had behaved as honorable, for as ſhe had given her promiſe to him, ſhe had refuſed ſeveral gentlemen of great eſtates.

Miſs Richland ſmiled, and ſaid her brother had betrayed all her ſecrets! Sir William with great tenderneſs returned his acknowledgements to her, ſaying that he had many opportunities offered to have chang'd his condition, but declared his Amelia's image was rooted in his heart.

Amelia being curious to know ſome of his adventures, deſired him to entertain them with as much as he thought proper, and and Sir William related to them as follows.

In my travels thro' Spain I had a great deſire to ſee the city of Madrid. having heard much talk of it. I had a friend with me, a young gentleman,

who

who was born in London, but having met with a-d appointment in a love affair, inten ed to travel for ſome years together.

When we arrived at Madrid, we viſited every place of note and my friend on entering into a little intrigue, as there is no living in that place without, the women not having ſo much liberty as Engliſh women have, are obliged to have recourſe to ſchemes, to ſee their gallants.

Not having much of his company of an evening, I frequently ſtrolled about by myſelf. One night paſſing thro' a narrow ſtreet, I ſaw a light in a lower room, and heard two female voices deeply engaged in diſcourſe; I ſtop'd under the window and liſtened, when preſently I heard them mention my name. I muſt own I was ſurpriſed, and raiſing myſelf on my toes, could juſt reach the bottom of the window, but was prevented from ſeeing by a thick lattice.

The voices ceaſed, and the light diſappeared, ſo I came away a little diſappointed I muſt own; not that I had any other inclination than to know who they were, and how they came to know me. But they have the advantage of the men, for tho' they are not permitted to ſhew themſelves, they can ſee the men thro' the lattices.

Next morning as I was walking, an old lady with a veil over her head, pulled me by the arm, and walking on turn'd down a paſſage. As ſoon as ſhe heard me after her, ſhe turn'd round and ſlipped a letter into my hand and went away without ſpeaking. I wanted ſadly to know what it contain'd, but thought it was dangerous to read it in the ſtreet, I went home and found theſe words.

"If

" If you ever felt the force of love, you will not wonder at any thing it makes its votaries ſubmit to; I deſire you to believe my motive for writing this is honourable, which you may be convinced of; if you will wait in the ſame paſſage where you received this, in the duſk of the evening. Adieu."

Not having ever been engaged in any thing of this kind, I was willing to ſee the end of it, and went at the time appointed. I had not waited a minute before the ſame old lady appeared, and taking me by the hand, conducted me in all haſte down that paſſage, then up another, and ſo thro' ſeveral, till ſhe brought me to the back of a fine houſe, into which we entered.

She then conducted me up ſtairs into an apartment, where ſhe left me, and returning again threw open a folding door into an other appartment, where I ſaw a young lady richly dreſſed ſitting on a ſopha. She aroſe and came forward, ſaying, with a moſt engaging ſmile, well Sir, you have obeyed my ſummons, and I will now inform you of my reaſons for ſending for you.

I am the only daughter of Don Alonzo, my name is Iſabella, I am but juſt fourteen, and my father wants to marry me to a man of ſixty, and I have deviſed ſeveral things to put off this match, the time is near that I am to be ſacrificed to either him or a cloyſter; I happened to ſee you by accident, and finding you a proper handſome gentleman, ſent for you to make this propoſal. That I will make my eſcape with you to your own country, and if you marry me there, I will take care to bring a fortune in gold and jewels. This offer threw me into great confuſion; however, being

being fully determined never to marry, unleſs I had you, Amelia, I ſoon came to a reſolution.

I told Donna Iſabella, I was contracted to a young lady in London, and I was bound both in honour and love to fulfil my promiſe; that I was ſorry for her ſituation, but it was not in my power to redreſs it. She burſt into a flood of tears, bidding me go and be happy.

When I returned home, I found my friend; he informed me he had narrowly eſcaped being aſſaſſinated on account of his amour, and deſired to leave Spain. I told him my adventure, and he replied if I did not go, I might depend on being ſet upon by bravo's. We left Spain, and after travelling thro' Turky and many other places, where we met with many occurrences, which at ſome proper opportunity I will relate.

'Squire Richland and his ſiſter returned Sir William B—— thanks for his hiſtory, and Amelia was obliged to him for reſiſting ſo great a temptation; he aſſured her, the young lady was as beautiful as ever he beheld, except ſaid he, bowing to lady Richland, this lady.

My Friend and fellow traveller returned with me to England, and ſet off together for London; as I had heard my father was dead, but did not know in what manner he had diſpoſed of his fortune; the title and family eſtate I knew he could not diſinherit me of, but as to his money and effects he might do what he pleaſed with.

As ſoon as I found where Maria lived, the next day I paid my reſpects to her in company with my friend Mr. Raymond; but gueſs Amelia of my

 aſtoniſh-

aſtoniſhment, to find my friend the real lover of Maria. The meeting was ſuch, as Maria fainted, Raymond was hardly able to lift her from the ground; however, a ſhort time recovered their ſenſes, and mutual embraces took place; in ſhort, Maria being no longer under controul, beſtowed her hand on the deſerving Raymond, and preſſed to ſtay their nuptials, hindered me from paying my proper regard here before. Double preparations were now made, as it was agreed for them to be married at the ſame time with the 'Squire and Lucy.

The day arrived and the two couples were conveyed to church, where the ceremony was performed, and the moſt ſplendid entertainment and rejoicings were made.

The miller and his wife were invited to the feaſt, likewiſe their ſon Richard, for the 'ſquire had made them a preſent of five hundred pounds, that they might appear as the father, mother, and brother of the bride. And as to Lucy's fortune, which was three hundred pounds, the 'ſquire would by no means accept of, but made a preſent of it to Richard, to ſet him up in a mill of his own.

All this money and fine cloaths made Dick ſo unſettled, he could thing of nothing but pleaſure, and he thought now was the time to be married; ſo he went to farmer Wheatly, and aſked him downright if he ſhould have his daughter Rachel.

The farmer anſwered yes, with all my heart if ſhe be as willing as you. Oh! as to that cried Dick, I know her mind to a hair. Rachel was called, and being aſked the queſtion, anſwered,

ſhe

ſhe was willing to have him long ago. At which the old farmer laughed, and told her ſhe was a forward wench, and Dick gave her ſuch a hearty ſmack, that made her cheeks ring like bell metal.

Martha happened to come in juſt then, and hearing what fine doings there was going to be, began to be in the dumps, which Dick perceiving, ſaid, farmer you had as good let Martha and David be married at the ſame time. Theſe four loving turtles then hurried away to the parſon to beſpeak him next day; and when Dick went home and told Simon what he had done, odzooks, ſays he, then I'll have a wife as well as other folks; there's Dolly the farmer's milk-maid has caſt a ſheep's eye at me lately, when I have ſtopped my mill-clack, I'll ſtep to her, and if I find her inclinable, I ſhould like her as well as another; for they ſay, Joan is as good as my lady in the dark.

Simon then went a courting tho' it was ſo late at night, and finding Dolly in a good humour, made ſuch a good uſe of the little time he had to ſpare, that ſhe conſented to be married next morning, and to crown his good fortune, told him ſhe had ſaved forty ſhillings for a portion.

Thomas finding Lucy was married, turned his thoughts entirely to Sally, Miſs Richland's maid, and having gained her conſent, their wedding was likewiſe on the next day.

When lady B—— heard this, ſhe informed her brother and lady Richland, the 'ſquire who had heard a good deal about theſe honeſt people from Lucy, had a mind to give them an entertainment, and invited them after they was married to dine in his hall.

This

This was reckoned a great honour, and the four brides, and bridegrooms attended the summons. They were regaled with plenty of every thing that was good, and paſſed the day in innocent mirth at night; when it was time for them to retire, Sir William and lady B——ot, and 'ſquire Richland and his lady entered the hall, and wiſhing them all joy, gave each of the couples a purſe of twenty guineas.

They all then fell on their knees, and returned them thanks, bleſſig them for their goodneſs, and wiſhing them health, happineſs, and long life.

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